



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

**MAIL**

REED SMITH LLP  
Suite 1400  
3110 Fairview Park Drive  
Falls Church VA 22042

**MAY 12 2005**

DIRECTOR OFFICE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

In re Application of  
Akira Murotani, et al.  
Application No. 10/821,888  
Filed: April 12, 2004  
For: **DISK ARRAY APPARATUS AND DISK  
ARRAY APPARATUS CONTROL METHOD**

**DECISION ON PETITION  
TO MAKE SPECIAL**

This is a decision on the petition filed April 27, 2005 under Manual of Patent Examination Procedure §708.02, VIII requesting accelerated examination.

The petition under Manual of Patent Examination Procedure §708.02, VIII, must:

- (1) be filed prior to receiving any examination by the examiner,
- (2) be accompanied by the required fee- \$130,
- (3) the claims should be directed to a single invention (if it is determined that the claims pertain to more than one invention, then applicant will have to make an election without traverse or forfeit accelerated examination status),
- (4) state that a pre-examination search was made, and fully discuss the search method employed, such as classes and subclasses searched, publications, Chemical abstracts, patents, etc. A search made by a foreign patent office satisfies this requirement,
- (5) be accompanied by a copy of each of the references most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record,
- (6) fully discuss the references, pointing out with the particularity required by 37 C.F.R. §1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

The petitioner meets all the above-listed requirements. Accordingly, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The application will retain its special status throughout its entire prosecution, including any appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, subject only to diligent prosecution by the applicant. The application file is being forwarded to the examiner for appropriate action in due course.

Dwayne Bost  
Special Program Examiner  
Technology Center 2600  
Communications